THE NEW
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The New Indian Express wishes its readers a
Happy Onam

## CADILA'S 3-DOSE COVID VACCINE GETS EMERGENCY USE APPROVAL

**Zydus Cadila on Friday received Emergency Use Authorization for ZyCoV-D, the world's first DNA-based vaccine for Covid-19**

**FOUND SAFE FOR ANYONE ABOVE 12 YEARS**

The three-dose intradermal vaccine can be administered in those above 12 years using needle-free injector, according to Cadila. However, the Centre is yet to open inoculation for the 12-18 years category. The vaccine has been developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology and implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

**EFFECTIVE TO DEAL WITH MUTATIONS: GOVT**

- ZyCoV-D produces the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and elicits an immune response. "The plug-and-play technology on which the plasmid DNA platform is based can be easily adapted to deal with mutations in the virus, such as those already occurring," the Ministry of Science & Technology said in its release

**66.6%**

EFFICACY RATE IN A LATE-STAGE TRIAL OF 28,000 VOLUNTEERS NATIONWIDE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

# Empires built on terror don't last for long: PM

## Two Indian consulates ransacked by the militia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDICATING a hardline on the Taliban wresting power in Afghanistan at a time when the foreign office is reaching out to the militia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said those who try to establish an empire on the basis of terror may dominate temporarily, but their existence is not permanent and they cannot suppress humanity forever.

He said the idea of vanquishing terror was as valid hundreds of years ago when invaders demolished the Somnath temple multiple times, as it is today, when the world is apprehensive of such ideologies.

Modi's remarks came during the foundation stone laying ceremony for multiple projects in Somnath. India has always criticised terror unequivocally, saying there is no such thing as good Taliban and bad Taliban. However, given the situation on the ground, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had recently indicated India is engaging the Taliban, adding: "It is time to take things forward."

But in further evidence of Taliban's double-speak, while one of its leaders had urged New Delhi to not to evacuate its diplomats, two Indian consulates in Afghanistan were ransacked by the Taliban on Wednesday. The closed Indian consulates in Kandahar and Herat were searched by the militia for documents. Taliban leader Sher Mohammed Abbas Stanekzai has urged India to retain its diplomats, a request that was overlooked as security assessments suggested his words could not be taken on face value.

Afghans who worked with Spanish agencies arrive in Dubai along with families, prior to flying to Spain | AFP

**18K evacuated: NATO**

More than 18,000 people have been flown out since the militants took the capital Kabul, according to NATO

**Friday prayers calm**

Friday prayers were peaceful in Kabul, with no Taliban men seen in the mosques

**Journalists targeted**

German news organisation Deutsche Welle said the Taliban are targeting their journalists and the relative of a reporter was shot dead

## Taliban chief Haibatullah in Pak army's custody?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TALIBAN's supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, who is likely to become the head of the ruling council of Afghanistan, may be in Pakistan army's custody, according to sources. The tip-off about the whereabouts of the elusive 60-year-old Taliban leader, to Indian agencies has come from foreign intel agencies, an official said.

Akhundzada, who holds final authority over the group's political, religious, and military affairs, has not been seen in public over the past six months. Akhundzada's last public statement came in May - to mark Eid ul-Fitr, a holiday signalling the end of Ramzan.

The senior-most leader of Taliban being in Pak army custody could have serious implications for New Delhi as the militia may be directed to target India.

Akhundzada, known as the "Leader of the Faithful", took over the reins of Taliban when his predecessor, Akhtar Mansour, was killed in a US drone strike near the Afghan-Pakistan border in 2016. He is believed to have taught and preached at a mosque in Kuchlak, a town in southwestern Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the Taliban's 'moderate' mask further slipped on Friday with reports of targeted killings of people who had worked with US-led forces and the previous government.

Reports also said the Taliban is unlikely to make any decisions or announcements about the upcoming government until after the August 31 US withdrawal date passes. P9, 11

| NATIONWIDE | AUG 19 | AUG 20 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 36,401 | 36,571 |
| Recoveries | 39,157 | 36,555 |
| Deaths | 530 | 560 |

| KARNATAKA | AUG 19 | AUG 20 |
|---|---|---|
| Fresh cases | 1,432 | 1,453 |
| Recoveries | 1,538 | 1,408 |
| Deaths | 27 | 17 |

**JAB-O-METER**

TAKE YOUR SHOT

August 19
**48,84,440 doses**
August 20
**54,71,282 doses**
TOTAL DOSES
57,22,81,488

# CM's third visit to Delhi, this time to ask for more vaccines

**Bommai to seek one crore doses for state**

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is seeking one crore Covid vaccines per month for Karnataka. Now, the state gets 65 lakh doses. Stating that educational and economic restrictions will continue for the time being, Bommai called upon people to scrupulously follow social distancing and other norms like masking up, sanitising in public spaces.

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

IN less than a month after he took charge as Chief Minister, Basavaraj Bommai is likely to make his third visit to Delhi next week. This time, it is to get more vaccines and discuss the State's projects with central ministers, while sources also said that he will brief party central leaders about the political situation in the State after the cabinet expansion.

On Friday, Bommai said he has sought an appointment from many Union ministers and will go to Delhi as soon as he gets confirmation from them.

He will meet Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to ask for an increase in vaccine supply. Karnataka now gets 65 lakh doses of vaccines per month, while Bommai is seeking one crore shots. He is also expected to meet Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to discuss issues related to Mekedatu project.

Party sources said he is also meeting party senior leaders to explain the political situation in Karnataka. While Anand Singh seems to be still sulking over not getting the portfolio of his choice and skipped Thursday's cabinet meeting, the chief minister managed to convince another minister MTB Nagaraj, who had openly expressed his displeasure over portfolio allocation.

Many legislators too had expressed displeasure over not being inducted into the ministry but refrained from talking about it publicly. Sources said central leaders are not encouraging state leaders to make repeated visits to Delhi with complaints. P7

# Regional assertion at Oppn unity meet

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE process of Opposition consolidation gained further momentum on Friday as 19 parties participated in a meeting called by Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, with regional parties dominating the narrative, saying all like-minded parties irrespective of their alliance with the Congress should be part of a united front to take on the BJP.

Following an hour-and-a-half-long meeting, the Congress released a 'joint statement' demanding action from the Centre on 11 points. Soon after, the Trinamool Congress issued a separate wishlist with just five points — vaccine for all, repeal farm laws, fuel and LPG price hike, ₹7,500 per month dole to all outside the income tax bracket, and judicial probe on Pegasus.

During the meeting, regional parties indirectly told the Congress to drop its big brother attitude when West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and NCP chief Sharad Pawar said all parties who want to work together for saving democratic principles and ethos of our country must be allowed to come together.

The leaders who took part in the meeting were from TMC, NCP, DMK, Shiv Sena, JMM, CPI, CPI(M), NC, RJD, AIUDF, VCK, Loktantrik Janata Dal, JD(S), RLD, RSP, Kerala Congress (Mani), PDP and IUML. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi also attended. AAP, BSP and SP gave it a miss.

The joint statement claimed SP chief Akhilesh Yadav couldn't participate as he was touring the interior parts of UP. But Yadav tweeted his pictures with the British High Commissioner, who was in Lucknow.

Addressing the virtual meeting, Sonia said the monsoon session of Parliament saw Opposition unity but the larger political battle has to be fought outside it and the ultimate goal is the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

> **We have to begin to plan with the single-minded objective of giving a government to our country that believes in the values of the freedom movement and in the Constitution**
>
> Sonia Gandhi, Congress chief

**UNDER HIS WINGS**

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu inspects a Tejas aircraft during his visit to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd in Bengaluru on Friday. He was accompanied by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, while HAL CMD R Madhavan gave them a tour of the facilities

EXPRESS READ

**CBI forms four teams to probe Bengal post-poll violence**

Kolkata: The CBI has set up four special investigation teams, each headed by an officer of joint director rank and are from other states, to probe into complaints of murder, rape and attempted rape in the post-poll violence in West Bengal. P10

**Loud sound creates panic in Kalaburagi villages**

Kalaburagi: Intense tremors created panic among residents of several villages in Kalagi and Chincholi taluks of Kalaburagi district late on Friday evening. They also reported hearing loud sounds from the earth. P7

**Forex reserves decline by $2.10 bn to $619.365 bn**

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves decreased by USD 2.099 billion to USD 619.365 billion for the week ended August 13 due to a fall in core currency assets and gold. The forex kitty had increased to a high of USD 621.464 billion in the previous reporting week.

MISSED CALL

# When Union minister 'condoles' death of serving soldier

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

UNION Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A Narayanaswamy might wish this did not happen to him. In an embarrassing incident, he was taken to pay condolences to the family of a soldier, who is alive and posted along the border, while he was scheduled to go to the house of another soldier, who died last year.

The family members of the soldier, who is still serving, were first shocked when the minister's convoy arrived at their house, and they had a bigger surprise when Narayanaswamy offered a government job to the wife of the 'deceased' soldier. With hearts in their mouth, the family called up the soldier, who is serving in Jammu and Kashmir, and heaved a big sigh of relief when he answered the call.

It was the local BJP unit that had made arrangements for Narayanaswamy's visit to the residence of soldier Basavaraj Hiremath, who died last year while alighting from a train at Pune Railway Station. Hiremath was joining back his unit after visiting his hometown of Mulgund in Gadag district when the accident occurred. But the party members led Narayanaswamy to the house of Ravi Kattimani which is just two streets away.

Union Minister of State A Narayanaswamy at the house of soldier Ravi Kattimani in Mulgund, Gadag | EXPRESS

Initially, Kattimani's family members and neighbours were confused when they were informed about Narayanaswamy's visit.

He was accompanied by Gadag-Haveri MP Shivakumar Udasi, State PWD Minister CC Patil and several BJP members. They went on to console the family and even offer a job to Ravi's wife. A family member made a video call to Ravi and made him speak to the family and the Union minister.

By then, party members, who were waiting at the residence of Hiremath, rushed to the residence of Kattimani. But Narayanaswamy, who seemed upset with the faux pas, did not visit the house of Hiremath, where he was supposed to go originally.

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Mathi ₹278/kg
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